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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 52/34 of 9 December 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region of the Middle East and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 of 6 December 1991 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to his report (A/45/435) or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted in response to the request contained in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/34.

II. Observations

3. The Secretary-General has continued to attach particular importance to the issue and has, as in previous years, carried out consultations in various ways with concerned parties within and outside the region to explore ways and means of promoting the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, taking into account in particular the evolving situation in the region.

4. The Secretary-General welcomes the fact that all Arab States have acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. He has noted their reaffirmed determination to exert utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

5. The Secretary-General notes with regret that no positive developments have occurred in the consideration of the issue and that the overall political situation in the region has not served to advance the peace process further. He is particularly concerned about the continuing impasse in the work of the Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security. The Secretary-General remains convinced that, under appropriate circumstances, the Working Group could still play a useful role as a forum for discussing a broad range of arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

6. For that reason, the Secretary-General once again strongly urges all concerned parties to review the situation in order to determine possible new approaches and to resume discussions with a view to developing practical concepts that would make it possible to establish as expeditiously as possible a common position. This would serve as a confidence-building measure in itself and would also facilitate the overall peace process. In this connection, the Secretary-General reiterates that the United Nations is ready to continue to provide any assistance deemed helpful in moving the discussions forward.

7. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 52/34, to date, no replies have been received. Should the Secretary-General receive replies from Member States, they will be issued as addenda to the present report.

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Fifty-third session
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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/90

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/90 of 12 December 1997, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity". The year 1998 marks the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice. The report is written following a period during which intergovernmental bodies have taken a fresh look at the Programme. They reviewed the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of programme management in the then Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (A/52/777, annex) and the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;[1] the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice received the first report of its working group on mandates and resources as part of its strategic management of the Programme; and the responsible Secretariat office began to implement the Secretary-General's proposals for reform under the leadership of a new Executive Director. Those developments provided new impulses that have begun to manifest themselves in the Programme's activities.

II. Seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. The seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Vienna from 21 to 30 April 1998. Its prominent theme was transnational organized crime, one of the priority areas of the Programme's work. The report on the session[2] contains details on its deliberations, the action taken by the Commission and the implications of the mandates contained in the resolutions recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, respectively.

III. Programme activities

A. Technical cooperation

3. A detailed report on technical cooperation, including resource mobilization and coordination of activities,[3] was presented to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session. It reviewed the operational activities carried out in 1997 and the first quarter of 1998. According to the report, the Centre for International Crime Prevention was associated with the provision of technical cooperation to some 23 countries worldwide.

4. Recently, the Centre began to concentrate its technical cooperation activities in national and regional programmes to combat organized crime, corruption and bribery. There are three main anti-corruption projects under implementation, financed by a contribution of the United States of America through the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, namely, in Lebanon ($232,000), Romania ($312,000) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($30,000). The Fund is also financing a project to control economic crime in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a police training programme to combat organized crime in Croatia and measures to counteract organized crime and commercial crime in South Africa ($415,000). The Danish International Development Agency and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are contributing to a project to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan to combat organized crime. A joint project of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention is under way in the Russian Federation to control drug trafficking and organized crime.

5. At the same time, the Centre formulates and implements projects to improve prison conditions, to develop national juvenile justice systems, to counter domestic violence and to strengthen the capacity of institutions of criminal justice generally. By mid-1998, 24 new projects had been formulated in response to governmental requests. Funding is now being sought for those projects directly and through an informal consultative group on resource mobilization, established by the Commission in 1996, which successfully mobilized some resources in 1997. The Economic and Social Council has called upon potential donors and relevant funding agencies to make significant and regular financial and/or other contributions for the formulation, coordination and implementation of technical assistance projects.

6. The year 1998 saw an intensification of cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the context of the new Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, in particular with regard to projects in Africa, central Asia, the Balkans and the Caribbean region. Joint missions were undertaken to Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and in the Caucasus region, which have resulted in specific project proposals. The Centre has contributed to the background analysis for a possible strategy for the reduction of illicit

drug crops cultivation, which was recently considered by the General Assembly at its special session devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and activities. In cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Centre has worked on the elaboration of a model law against corruption that contains provisions designed to assist requesting States to prevent, detect and fight corruption in a more effective way.

7. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Centre are launching a project to counter trafficking in human beings, forced labour and sexual exploitation. Following an initial research study, the project will develop model legislation, training modules for police and immigration officials, control and regulatory mechanisms for trafficking and victim protection programmes. Other bodies of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Migration Organization are expected to be involved in various stages of the project.

8. The Centre has also organized training programmes to combat organized crime in Croatia, Kyrgyzstan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A two-week training seminar on mutual assistance and extradition was organized for 33 judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from all the countries of the Economic Community of West African States at Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire. An Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Transnational Crime, whose central theme was the prevention and control of corruption, was held in Manila in March 1998. Juvenile justice training seminars have taken place in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Rwanda and South Africa. Training for prison staff took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Russian Federation. The Centre participated in human rights training for police in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guinea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Study tours for Bosnian judicial personnel was organized to Austria and Italy, while study tours for Kyrgyzstan police officials were organized to Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The regular budget for technical cooperation provided fellowships for two high-level criminal justice professionals, one from Mali and the other from Uganda. Staff from the Centre also participated as resource persons in courses organized by other institutions on corruption, transnational organized crime, money-laundering and bribery. The Centre is also in the process of revising the manual on practical measures against corruption and developing a training manual on action against organized crime.

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/90, the Centre continues to make contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations through training programmes for civilian police in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Together with the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force, the Centre has produced a pocket book on United Nations criminal justice standards for law enforcement officials and it has published the United Nations criminal justice standards and norms in the Bosnian language in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. With the support of the Government of Austria, the Centre organized a Conference on Establishing the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict Situations in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Austria will finance the publication of the documentation and conclusions of the Conference. The Centre also produced a booklet entitled "The Role, Preparation and Performance of Civilian Police in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations". At the request of the Department for Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and UNDP, the Centre has become increasingly involved in rebuilding criminal justice systems after conflicts, in particular in Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Haiti.

B. Progress made in the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

10. The reports considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session dealt with the procedural and substantive aspects of the Tenth Congress.[4] During the session, the Commission accepted the invitation of the Government of Austria to host the Congress in Vienna. Its duration was reduced from 10 to 8 days—from 10 to 17 April 2000—followed immediately by a 3-day session of the Commission to consider its conclusions. The Commission approved a provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress and decided that its theme should be "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century". The holding and duration of

regional preparatory meetings are to be limited to the extent possible. The discussion on those and other Congress-related issues is reflected in the relevant part of the Commission's report on its seventh session.[2]

11. The discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings as well as that on the workshops, ancillary meetings, symposia and exhibits were reviewed by the Commission and have been finalized. The programme of work, including four technical workshops and their topics, were endorsed by the Commission, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/91 of 12 December 1997.

12. To streamline the costs of the preparatory process and the Congress itself, the regional preparatory meetings to be held in autumn 1998 and in early 1999 will be devoted exclusively to the examination of substantive agenda items and workshop topics and to action-oriented recommendations that are to serve as the basis for a single declaration to be drafted at the Congress.

13. At the time of writing, the Secretariat had begun to make preparations for the regional preparatory meetings, the first of which is to be held in Africa in October 1998, followed by those in Asia in November 1998, in western Asia in December 1998 and in Latin America and the Caribbean in February 1999. The countries of western Europe and others have decided not to hold a preparatory meeting.

14. By operative paragraph 13 (b) of the draft resolution on the Tenth Congress that will be before the General Assembly at its fifty-third session,[3] the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information related to the preparations for the Tenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the implementation of its conclusions. The participants of the seventh session of the Commission were informed that implementation of that request would have financial implications that would have to be met from extrabudgetary resources.

C. International cooperation in combating organized transnational crime

15. The report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session[2] reflects the fact that the Commission considered detailed reports[6] on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994 (A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A). Those reports described the activities that had taken place during the past 12 months with regard to the drafting of an international convention against organized transnational crime and other possible instruments, as well as activities in the area of mutual assistance and international cooperation in criminal matters. Some progress has been made since then in the preparations leading to the drafting of the convention and is brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/14.

16. Pursuant to that resolution, the General Assembly would decide to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants, including by sea. The first meeting of the ad hoc committee will be held in Vienna from 18 to 29 January 1999. The Assembly would also elect the chairman of the ad hoc committee.

17. The working group on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan, which was convened at the seventh session of the Commission, recommended that the Chairman of the ad hoc committee should be assisted by an informal working group of friends of the chair, which should meet as resources permitted. The first meeting of that informal group was held in Rome in July 1998 to discuss organizational and procedural matters related to the work of the ad hoc committee. The group reviewed and approved a provisional timetable indicating the expected needs of the ad hoc committee as regards meetings until the completion of its task. States have undertaken to finalize the drafting of the convention in time for its approval by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, in 2000. The timetable enables the Secretariat to plan its substantive and technical work in such a way as to seek to accommodate the needs of the ad hoc committee within existing resources. The group also recommended that the ad hoc committee hold its second meeting in Vienna from 8 to 12 March 1999.

18. In order to allow for the work on the drafting of the convention to proceed without interruption, the Government of Argentina offered to host an informal preparatory meeting of the ad hoc committee in Buenos Aires from 31 August to 4 September 1998. At the time of writing the present report, preparations for that meeting were well under way. The informal group of Friends of the

Chair recommended that the meeting in Buenos Aires complete the first reading of the draft convention, which had been started during the seventh session of the Commission, and begin negotiations on the consolidated text. In addition, the meeting should discuss the relationship of the above-mentioned three international instruments or protocols to the convention against transnational organized crime (see para. 16). The Governments of Finland, France, Tunisia and the United Kingdom submitted additional working papers containing specific proposals on the text of the convention or additional international instruments before the ad hoc committee.

19. The drafting of the convention and additional international instruments is considered one of the top priorities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Through advance planning, assisted by clear indications of the needs of the ad hoc committee, the Centre will make every possible effort to carry out the work within existing resources. However, in view of the vigorous pace, the short time available and, consequently, the growing needs of the ad hoc committee, the support of States to obtain additional resources may become essential. The same holds true for the resources that will be necessary for the Centre to promote and ensure the implementation of the new convention.

D. Measures to regulate firearms

20. As reported to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session, the Centre for International Crime Prevention published the report of the United Nations international study on firearm regulation,[7] which includes information provided by 69 Governments on firearm-related crimes and accidents, national legislation, trafficking in firearms and national, regional and international initiatives. Using the outcome of the study as the basis for discussion, the Centre organized four regional workshops on firearm regulation for the purposes of crime prevention and public safety between September 1997 and January 1998, in Brazil, India, Slovenia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

21. The results of the United Nations international study on firearm regulation were welcomed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/18, and the drafting of an international instrument was recommended to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition within the context of a United Nations convention against transnational organized crime. The Centre will convene, support and follow up the meetings of an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee on the drafting of the above-mentioned instrument and convention.

22. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/18, the Centre is also preparing an action plan for collecting, reviewing and exchanging statistics, information and policy proposals on criminal use of explosives. The possibility of convening a meeting of a group of experts to consider the action plan is being examined by the Centre. Those activities will depend on the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

23. A coordinated United Nations approach is particularly useful and urgent on all aspects of the question of firearms. The related but different features of military defence and criminal justice have to be addressed in a balanced context. The Centre is participating with other United Nations offices and programmes in an effort to coordinate work on small arms. Within that context, the Centre could assist in (a) establishing a database on existing laws and regulations on firearms; (b) law reform and drafting of new legislation on firearms; (c) training courses for law enforcement officials involved in controlling illegal trafficking of arms, including detection; (d) tracing and investigation of illicit trafficking of firearms; and (e) development of public awareness programmes. The United Nations is increasingly concerned about the need for firearm regulation. Effective coordination of related initiatives undertaken by different offices and programmes within the system is paramount. A meeting devoted to that purpose was held in New York in early August.

E. The development, analysis and policy use of crime and criminal justice information and the computerization of criminal justice operations

24. Pursuant response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/11 and 1997/27, the Centre for International Crime Prevention has established an Advisory Steering Group on Data Collection and Computerization. With the support of the Governments of Argentina and the Netherlands, two meetings of the Group were held, in Buenos Aires, from 10 to 13 March 1997, and in Veldhoven, from 18 to 21 March 1998.

25. The objectives of those meetings were fourfold and have formed the strategy through which the Centre is addressing those fields: (a) to streamline the sixth United Nations surveys on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems; (b) to offer comments and input to the

draft guide on the development and analysis of criminal justice statistics; (c) to develop a strategy and a survey instrument for the collection of data and information on organized transnational crime; and (d) to establish a pool of experts to assist requesting Governments in the computerization of the criminal justice system. Activities related to the four areas are outlined below.

26. The quinquennial surveys on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems are the Centre's primary vehicle for the collection of statistics on crime trends and criminal justice. To date, over 100 countries have provided official data on police, prosecution, courts, prisons and resource allocation. Those data have been organized into an electronic database and are available via the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, an Internet-based World Wide Web site.[8] The sixth wave of the survey will be administered to Governments in the last quarter of 1998 and, as indicated above, has been sufficiently streamlined and simplified.

27. Data collected via the crime surveys are useful to Member States for planning and policy-making related to their criminal justice systems. Such data are now available in several publications, most notably in the *Global Report on Crime and Justice*,[9] which offers a comprehensive review of the state of crime in the world, addressing topics as diverse as punishment, policing strategies, crime prevention, firearm regulation, drug control and organized crime. In addition, with the support of the Statistics Division of the Secretariat and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, the Centre is finalizing a guide on the development and analysis of criminal justice statistics. The goal of the publication is to assist developing countries in the collection, maintenance and analysis of crime and criminal justice data and information. Finally, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), is publishing the *European and North American Analysis of the Results of the Fifth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (1990-1994)*.

28. Owing to the refocusing of the Programme, and as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1996/27 and 1997/22, the Centre is expanding its central repository on organized transnational crime. Specifically, the expert participants at the above-mentioned meeting in Veldhoven (see para. 24) drafted an organized crime survey that has been distributed to government representatives of the Advisory Steering Group on a pilot basis. Based on feedback received, the survey will be distributed to all Member States in due course. As with other data and information gathered by the Centre, the results of the survey will be entered into an electronic database and made available to requesting parties. In addition, legislative material obtained from Governments as a result of the note verbale process and other relevant information is being included in the central repository.

29. Limited resources have affected the Centre's ability to establish a pool of experts to assist Governments with computerization projects. However, it has developed and expanded a roster of experts that includes individuals knowledgeable in the field. Earmarked contributions and in-kind assistance are required to meet the needs of requesting States. In spite of limitations, there has been an expansion of the database and information dissemination activities of the Centre.

30. A *Resource Book* was published in the spring of 1998 focusing on criminal justice information in the information age; key issues in introducing information technology in criminal justice; United Nations assistance to Member States in needs assessment and strategic planning; an introduction to the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network and the United Nations Online Crime and Justice Clearinghouse (UNOJUST);[10] strategies for information management; legal and security issues; strategies for information dissemination; a glossary of technical terminology; and a listing of Internet resources in crime prevention and criminal justice. It was published with in-kind assistance from the School of Informatics of the University of Vienna, Austria, the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. The publication was the result of a training course entitled "The United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network: Providing Information to and from Developing Countries" hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 1996.

31. The amount of data and information contained in the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network has expanded and now includes the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session, in full and in English, French and Spanish. As noted above, the data gathered through the United Nations crime surveys are available in various formats on the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network Web site. In addition, the data and information gathered by the United Nations international survey on firearm regulation is presented. As a result of a sabbatical project of a visiting professor to the Centre, the Information Network now contains a global bibliography of prison systems, a collection of over 600 citations from more than 30 countries.[11] Lastly, links have been established with the International Money Laundering Information Network.

F. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

32. The Centre for International Crime Prevention reported to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in detail on recent activities related to standards and norms[12] and on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice.[13] In addition, the Centre presented to the Commission a guide for policy makers on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (resolution 40/34, annex) and a handbook on justice for victims concerning the use and application of the Declaration. The following activities have been carried out since then or are mandated for the near future.

33. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Centre will continue the information-gathering on the use and application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Centre will submit to the Commission at its ninth session a report on the use and application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules) (resolution 45/110, annex); the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors[14] and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.[15] The Centre will also prepare updated reports where at least 30 States have replied in respect of a standard and norm on which a report has already been submitted. At the same time, the Centre will prepare survey instruments on the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions (resolution 51/191, annex), the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security (resolution 51/60, annex) and the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (resolution 51/59, annex).

34. As recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25, annex) frequently seek assistance from the United Nations in juvenile justice. In order to meet such requests and pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, the Secretary-General has established a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice. The panel will ensure a coordinated response by the United Nations, including the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP and the network of non-governmental organizations working in the field of juvenile justice. Work will initially focus on Bangladesh, Guatemala, Lebanon, the Philippines and Uganda.

35. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Centre will develop a database on practical national experiences regarding victim assistance, in particular as regards case law and legislation on the use and application of the Declaration, taking into account different systems and traditions. The Government of the Netherlands has offered to help establish such a database and to maintain it for an initial duration of three years. The Centre will also convene a working group, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands, on the feasibility of establishing an international fund for victims of crime and abuse of power, consisting of Member States that express an interest in such a fund. The fund would support technical assistance to develop and/or strengthen victim support services and organizations, awareness campaigns on victim rights and crime prevention and eligible victim claims resulting from international and transnational crime, where national avenues of recourse and/or redress are unavailable or insufficient.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations of the Office for Internal Oversight Services

36. The Secretariat has begun to implement the recommendations contained in the two reports of the Office for Internal Oversight Services (see para. 1). As regards the recommendations made in connection with the in-depth evaluation of the Programme, a public information strategy is being developed. An Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention Web page has been created providing information on activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and a newsletter is being published by the Office four times a year. A mechanism for the registration of Web site users will be in place by early October 1998. External relations capabilities have been increased, capitalizing on synergies of the Office. Officials with policy-making responsibilities were trained and training was also provided to technical cooperation staff in project development and management. Procedures for the granting of executing agency status by UNDP were well advanced at the time the present report was written. As mentioned elsewhere, besides the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, closer linkages for technical cooperation activities have been established with various intergovernmental organizations such as UNICEF, UNHCR, the World Bank and the South-East European Cooperative Initiative.

37. Progress has also been made on the implementation of recommendations related to the review of programme

management of the Centre. Regular senior staff meetings have been held with the Director-General, as well as with the Officer-in-Charge and selected staff members of the Centre, to provide strategic direction and guidance. Restructuring of the Centre has created an institutional environment that provides for a greater focus on organized crime and corruption and increased emphasis on technical cooperation. Mandatory reporting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be substantially reduced—as of its eighth session, only one report on the work of the Centre will be submitted by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention for the consideration of the Commission. Further, the Director-General has, in consultation with the Informal Consultative Group on Resource Mobilization, established by the Commission in 1996, undertaken preliminary discussions with some delegations about the establishment of a donor group for crime prevention activities and the functions of the Programme Support Service of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme have been extended to the Centre.

V. Strategic management and resource mobilization

A. Strategic management of the Programme by the Commission

38. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice discussed the Executive Director's proposals addressing the continuing gap between the Programme's mandates and its resources, and considered the Secretary-General's report on strategic management.[16] It also considered the first report of the informal working group to review the mandates and resources of the Programme,[17] as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its review of programme management in the then Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (A/52/777, annex).

39. The Commission agreed on the usefulness of concentrating work on specific issues for defined periods. At the same time, there was a need to maintain a balance between the current emphasis on combating organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings and the other priority issues of the Programme, also in relation to technical cooperation. Work should also continue on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, information-sharing about their use and application and the strengthening of criminal justice systems.

40. In pursuit of those goals, the Commission reiterated its resolve to exercise self-discipline in the formulation of new mandates, including requests for extensive documentation and reporting. Compared with previous years, there was already a reduction in both documents submitted to the Commission at its seventh session and in additional mandates emanating from it.

41. In general, the Centre's duties associated with servicing intergovernmental bodies should be reduced. The Commission's Bureau was encouraged to play an active role in that respect. As an immediate measure, the Commission reduced the duration of the Tenth Congress from 10 to 8 days and the subsequent ninth session of the Commission from 8 to 3 days. The sole purpose of that session will be consideration of the declaration that is expected to be adopted by the Congress.

B. Internal strategic management

42. The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was established in November 1997 as part of the reform measures of the Secretary-General. It consists of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. In March 1998, a new organizational structure for the Centre was established and staff were reassigned in accordance with the organizational changes and with a view to achieving a more focused approach to its activities, as recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the context of its strategic management and by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in connection with its recent reviews of the Programme and its management (see para. 1).

43. The Centre pays special attention to combating transnational organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings. At the same time, the Secretariat is fully aware of the Commission's reaffirmation, in its resolution 7/1 on strategic management, of the need to maintain a balance between the current main priority issue of combating transnational organized crime and the other priority issues of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and has taken steps to ensure a balanced work programme within the constraints of its limited resources. That balance is achieved primarily through ongoing work related to promoting and monitoring the use and application of existing standards and norms and the selection of appropriate technical cooperation projects.

44. Following the establishment of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the restructuring of the

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division as the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the setting up of an in-house Strategy Committee on Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention identified synergies and coordinated more closely the interlinked undertakings of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Some of the solutions found thus far have had a positive impact on the utilization of the Centre's resources for substantive work rather than for servicing and administrative tasks.

C. Resource mobilization

45. The Commission determined that all activities envisaged in the resolutions adopted by it must be implemented within existing resources or through extrabudgetary resources. Consequently, unless extrabudgetary resources—including voluntary contributions—are received, newly mandated activities not foreseen in the current programme budget cannot be implemented.

46. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/90, the General Assembly called upon States and United Nations funding agencies to make significant financial contributions for the operational activities of the Programme. Operational activities by definition require extrabudgetary funding for their implementation. As reported to the Commission, funds received for technical cooperation activities amounted to $3.1 million in the biennium 1996-1997. So far, projections for the current biennium are not promising. Most of the funds received were earmarked for specific projects, leaving the Centre critically short of resources to create the necessary infrastructure for the identification, formulation and backstopping of technical cooperation projects and thus seriously hampered in its efforts to become more operational.

47. The Informal Consultative Group on Resource Mobilization continues to encourage Member States to examine the list of unfunded project proposals compiled by the Centre and to review their funding policies for development assistance with a view to including crime prevention and criminal justice in such assistance. In conjunction with the Group the Secretariat has undertaken consultations with some previous donors to explore the possibility of setting up a donors' group for crime prevention and criminal justice activities that would request its members to contribute a defined amount on an annual basis.

48. In paragraph 6 of resolution 52/90, the General Assembly called upon all relevant programmes, funds and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP, the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies, to support technical operational activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

49. Cooperation with UNDP in that regard is good and increasing steadily. Indeed, most of the projects of the Centre are funded in whole or part by UNDP. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/24, the Centre has entered into discussions with UNDP to be recognized by it as an "executing agency". UNDP has disseminated the text of resolution 52/90 to its offices involved in programme development. With particular reference to paragraph 6 of the resolution, UNDP has noted that it was already cooperating with the Centre and that such cooperation could be expected to increase, considering the importance that many countries attached to good governance. As regards programme development and support in the field of crime prevention, UNDP has indicated that it needs the expertise of the Centre. Financial support from UNDP can be provided mainly within the context of country cooperation frameworks, but UNDP is also ready to help interested Governments to raise additional funds for activities developed in cooperation, as well as to explore the possibility for cooperation with the Centre in regional and global activities.

50. UNDP has also disseminated to all its units involved in programme development the text of General Assembly resolution 52/85 of 12 December 1997 on the follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. With particular reference to paragraph 8 of that resolution, UNDP will be ready to consider requests from Governments for support of technical cooperation projects within the framework of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

Notes

[1] E/AC.51/1998/3.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10*.

[3] E/AC.15/1998/9.

[4] E/AC.15/1998/2 and Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.2.

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10*, chap. I, sect. A, para. 1, draft resolution I.

[6] E/CN.15/1998/5, E/CN.15/1998/6 and Add.1 and 2 and E/CN.15/1998/7.

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.1998.IV.2.

[8] The United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network is accessible at http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/~uncjin/uncjin.html.

[9] Forthcoming, Oxford University Press (1998).

[10] UNOJUST was developed by the National Institute of Justice, United States Department of Justice, for the United Nations. It builds on the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network by clearly establishing links between and among the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. UNOJUST is available at http://www.unojust.org/.

[11] The global bibliography of prison systems is accessible at http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/~uncjin/gbops.

[12] E/CN.15/1998/8.

[13] E/CN.15/1998/8/Add.1.

[14] See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 26.

[15] Ibid., sect. B.

[16] E/CN.15/1998/10.

[17] E/CN.15/1998/CRP.2.

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African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/89 of 12 December 1997. The report updates the one submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-second session (A/52/327), focusing on the current situation of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, including its status, operations, staffing, programme of activities and funding as well as proposals on how to strengthen its programmes and activities.

2. In 1997, the Institute received political support from the General Assembly, the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. All of those bodies expressed the view that the Institute could play an important role in promoting and coordinating regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice in Africa. However, the financial basis of the Institute has not improved since the last report of the Secretary-General on the subject was submitted to the Assembly. The lack of funding has not allowed the Institute to deliver satisfactorily its services to African States.

II. Programme activities

3. The Governing Board of the Institute, at its fifth ordinary meeting, held from 20 to 21 October 1997, considered the programme of work and budget of the Institute for the period 1998-1999 with a provision that the implementation of most of the specified activities would depend on the availability of funds. The programme consists of the following subprogrammes: (a) general direction and management; (b) training and human resource development; (c) comparative research and policy development; (d) information and documentation services; (e) advisory services to Governments and technical cooperation; (f) international cooperation and joint activities; and (g) conferences and seminars. Activities under each of the subprogrammes are discussed below.

A. General direction and management

4. The Institute has intensified its efforts to raise the awareness of African States regarding the necessity of strengthening cooperation among criminal justice administrations and police in different African countries with a view to countering the growing threat of crime, especially organized crime and other forms of transnational crime. The Institute has established working relations with international and regional agencies operating in African countries to promote good governance and sustainable development. It has continued to disseminate information to African States regarding innovative approaches to and good practices in crime prevention and criminal justice.

5. With regard to the resources available to the Institute, the Director has made several attempts to raise funds over and above assessed contributions, in close consultation with the Chairman of the Governing Board. The management of the Institute has ensured strict adherence to previously instituted measures regarding the operations and transactions of the Institute so that all activities could be implemented following the principles of transparency and accountability.

6. In accordance with the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of programme management in the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (A/52/777, annex), concerted efforts will be made to build a more effective collaborative relationship between the Institute and the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat. This will include closer involvement of the Secretariat in the formulation of the programme of the Institute, in accordance with its statutes. In addition, the Secretariat will ensure that, in consultation with the Economic Commission for Africa, the priorities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme will be adequately reflected in the work programme and direction of the Institute.

7. Core Professional staff posts continued to be frozen during the reporting period. That affected two posts at the P-4 level (one training officer and one research officer), one post at the P-3 level (information and documentation officer) and one post at the P-2 level (system analyst). It also affected three General Service posts. The Institute had the following staff to perform its functions: Director, Deputy Director, finance officer and seven General Service posts (two secretaries, one administrative assistant, one finance assistant, two messengers and one driver).

8. The salaries of the majority of the General Service staff were reduced by 40 per cent, the affected staff being retained on a part-time basis. The Governing Board, at its fifth ordinary meeting, decided that, as soon as resources permitted, the frozen Professional posts should be reactivated, the laid off Professional staff should be

reinstated and the General Service staff should be employed on a full-time basis to provide the Institute with the minimum capacity to function. In the meantime, the services of consultants would continue to be used to supplement existing expertise in implementing activities of the Institute.

B. Training and human resource development

9. The financial situation allowed the Institute to provide training only if it was funded by donor agencies or if sponsored by other institutions.

10. The Institute organized a workshop entitled "Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters in Africa: Exchange of Interregional Experience and Implementation of International Principles", which was held at Kampala from 6 to 9 April 1998. The workshop, which was part of a project on extradition and mutual legal assistance in Africa, brought together officials from 37 African countries. The recommendations of the workshop were made available to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session. The workshop called for the development of a comprehensive convention on extradition and mutual legal assistance for Africa. Provided that funds will be made available to it, the Institute intends to convene a meeting of regional experts to develop a preliminary text to be used as a starting point for the drafting of such a convention, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity.

11. In collaboration with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy at Vancouver and the Prison Service of Uganda, the Institute organized a national seminar entitled "Alternatives to Incarceration: Their Applicability and Practice in Uganda", held at Kampala from 2 to 4 February 1998. The seminar focused on the use of non-custodial sanctions rather than incarceration as a principal response to crime. Funded by the Correctional Service of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, the seminar brought together 60 participants, including senior representatives of the various components of the Ugandan criminal justice system, legislators, legal experts and practitioners, criminologists and other concerned individuals. The final report of the seminar was published and widely distributed.

C. Comparative research and policy development

12. The report on the first phase of the African extradition and mutual legal assistance project of the Institute (A/52/327, para. 15) is available on the Internet home page of the Institute (http://www.unafri.unojust.org or http://www.unafri.org.ug). The database contains names and contact addresses of officials from different African countries who are handling extradition and mutual legal assistance matters. The report provided background information for the workshop on extradition and mutual legal assistance matters in Africa, held at Kampala in April 1998 (see paragraph 10 above).

13. A crime and victimization survey was launched in June 1998 as a joint research project to be carried out with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, which will be the coordinator of the project, and the University of South Africa. The project was to start in July 1997 (A/52/327, para. 16); however, the University of South Africa encountered difficulties in mobilizing the necessary funds on time. The project is scheduled to be completed in early 1999.

14. An action-oriented study on the resettlement of street children (A/52/327, para. 13) was expanded to include community youth crime prevention and community policing, with particular emphasis on street education and crime prevention. Some African States have shown an interest in undertaking similar research. The African Institute intends to publish the study on its home page.

15. A study on the social rehabilitation of prisoners (A/52/327, para. 14) was continued, with financial support from the Government of Uganda. The project could be extended to include correctional services of southern and eastern African countries, as some officials expressed interest in promoting the social rehabilitation of offenders in custodial institutions.

16. In line with the objectives of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, the African Institute designed proposals for action-oriented research projects on corruption and organized crime, on the prevention of transborder theft of and illicit trafficking in motor vehicles and on the computerization of criminal justice system statistics.

D. Information and documentation services

17. With the support of the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice, the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders has established its own Internet home page. The site, which is linked to the home page of the United Nations On-line Crime and Justice Clearing House (www.unojust.org), contains general information on the African Institute, some publications and a database on extradition and mutual legal assistance. With the support of the National Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law Foundation, new hardware and software were acquired early in 1998 to improve the accessibility of the home page of the African Institute. The National Institute of Justice sponsored the attendance of the information and documentation consultant of the African Institute at the fourth meeting of the World Criminal Justice Library Network, held at Washington, D.C., from 18 to 21 October 1997.

E. Advisory services to government and technical cooperation

18. Because of the financial situation of the African Institute, no advisory mission was undertaken during the reporting period.

F. International cooperation and joint activities

19. High priority was given to further improve the cooperation and coordination between the African Institute and the other institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. The African Institute collaborated with other institutes regarding the following meetings during the reporting period:

(a) African regional workshop on firearm regulation for the purpose of crime prevention and public safety, held at Arusha from 3 to 7 November 1997, organized by the Centre for International Crime Prevention;

(b) International Conference on Community Service Orders in Africa, held at Kadoma, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 28 November 1997, organized by Penal Reform International, in cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the Government of Zimbabwe;

(c) Ad hoc meeting on national capacities for the collection of criminal justice information and statistics, held at Veldhoven, Netherlands, from 17 to 21 March 1998, organized by the Government of the Netherlands and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

G. Conferences and seminars

20. The African Institute participated in numerous international, regional, subregional and national meetings and seminars, including the following:

(a) Conference on Arab international technical cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, organized by Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences at Riyadh from 3 to 5 November 1997;

(b) Fourth meeting of the World Criminal Justice Library Network, held at Washington, D.C., from 18 to 21 October 1997, upon the invitation of the National Institute of Justice;

(c) Twelfth Coordination Meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network held at Courmayeur, Italy, from 2 to 3 October 1997;

(d) Seminar on crime, violence and conflict towards early warning and social prevention mechanism, organized by the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council at Courmayeur, Italy, from 4 to 6 October 1997;

(e) Seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held at Vienna from 21 to 30 April 1998.

21. Representatives of the African Institute participated in a number of locally held seminars and workshops relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, combating drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in motor vehicles, and violent crime and on the observance of human rights.

III. Funding and support

22. Total resources for 1998 amounted to $410,414.07. The funds were made available by (a) contributions from member States, (b) a grant from the United Nations, (c) grants in relation to specific projects and (d) income generated by the rental of the premises and facilities of the African Institute.

A. Assessed financial contributions of member States

23. Twenty-eight African States are members of the African Institute. The statutes of the Institute stipulate that its funding needs to be ensured by its member States. Since 1996, the payment of assessed contributions has decreased considerably. While in 1996, contributions of $63,024 were received, the Institute received only $20,935 in 1997. So far, the 1998 collections have been the lowest in the history of the Institute. By 31 July 1998, only two member States (Rwanda and Uganda) had made payments of assessed contributions for 1998, totalling $8,300. Since its establishment, assessed contributions have amounted to $317,468.47, thus leaving an outstanding balance of $1,965,047.53. Those contributions have been received from 13 States. Fifteen member States have never made any contribution to the budget of the Institute.

B. United Nations

24. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly approved a grant of $204,800 for the period 1998-1999 to cover the salaries of the Director and the Deputy Director of the Institute, as well as other administrative expenses.

C. Grants for funded projects

25. As at 31 December 1997, there was an unspent balance of $248,214.57 from a grant received from the United States Department of State and Department of Justice. The amount was earmarked for the completion of the project on extradition and mutual assistance in 1998. Similarly, the unspent balance of $13,977.50 from a grant from the National Institute of Justice was earmarked for finalizing the setting up of a home page on the Internet. The grant was also to be used to cover the costs for infrastructure and technical assistance required to link the Institute with the home page of the United Nations On-line Crime and Justice Clearing House on the Internet during 1998.

D. Other sources of income

26. The Institute continued to rent its unused premises to generate income to be used to partially offset administrative expenses. That activity generated income amounting to $32,000, in addition to interest on capital amounting to $5,522.

E. Additional resources required for the implementation of the proposed programme of work for the period 1998-1999

27. Necessary additional resources for the Institute for 1998 amount to $334,749. Those resources would be used as follows:

(a) Training workshops/seminars:

(i) Environmental crime, sanctioning strategies and sustainable development ($55,000);

(ii) Crime, political transition and effective strategies ($55,000);

(b) Research:

(i) Implementation of the next phase of the African survey on crime/victimization and criminal justice administration (two countries) ($55,750);

(ii) Action-oriented study on the resettlement of street children ($55,750);

(c) Establishment and operationalization of the library information and documentation centre, including production of reports and publishing of the journal of the Institute ($15,500);

(d) Reinstatement of core Professional staff ($87,749);

(e) Participation in meetings relating to crime prevention ($10,000).

IV. Governing Board

28. The fifth ordinary session of the Governing Board was convened from 20 to 21 October 1997. The Board reiterated that the Institute was important for promoting the rule of law in Africa. The Board considered the programme of work and the budget of the Institute for 1998. The report of auditors for the statutory audit of the 1994 and 1995 financial statements and the audit certificate of the auditors were approved.

V. Concluding remarks

29. In practically every country of the region, there are indications that the growing seriousness of criminality in all its manifestations has detrimental effects on public safety, peace and security, as well as the personal and material well-being of individuals. This is further aggravated by the spread of transnational crime. The high incidence of criminality, together with its level of sophistication in African countries, is posing serious threats to development strategies. There is an urgent need for crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as better coordination among law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels.

30. Therefore, there would appear to be every justification to provide the Institute with the necessary resources to assist member States in need of bringing up to date their criminal justice policies and strengthening their criminal justice systems. The importance of the Institute has been recognized time and again by the Governing Board, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the General Assembly.

31. Despite that need and the political support, the financial situation of the Institute has worsened to the extent that its limited activities have hardly had any impact on crime prevention strategies and criminal justice systems in Africa. While the host Government is still committed to supporting the Institute, its member States have shown decreasing interest in funding its programme. Never before in the history of the Institute have almost no contributions been received from member States in a given year. Thus, the viability of the Institute has basically depended on a United Nations grant and extrabudgetary contributions from the United States of America.

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International drug control

Implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is structured thematically along the lines of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, on 23 February 1990. Each section contains a general overview of approaches and policies developed by States individually or in cooperation with other States or with international organizations. Concrete examples of programmes and measures implemented at the national level have also been included. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/168 of 23 December 1994, 50/148 of 21 December 1995 and 52/92 of 12 December 1997, the report contains an evaluation of progress on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and recommendations on ways and means of improving implementation.

2. To facilitate reporting, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 4 (XXXVII), a questionnaire was sent to all Governments soliciting information on activities undertaken to implement the Global Programme of Action. As at 7 August 1998, replies had been received from 54 States. In view of the level of response, information submitted by Governments has been complemented by information from other official sources.

A. Action taken by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

3. In its resolution 52/92, section II, the General Assembly urged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to complete its work on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction developed by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in consultation with Member States. At its second session, the Commission acting as preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly completed its work and submitted for adoption by the Assembly the draft Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. The Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, held from 8 to 10 June 1998.

4. At its second session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as a preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, also completed its work with regard to the preparation of a draft political declaration and of action plans against manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, on control of precursors, on measures to promote judicial cooperation, on countering money-laundering and on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development programmes and projects. The Assembly at its twentieth special session adopted the following resolutions: resolution S-20/2, on the Political Declaration; resolution S-20/3, on the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and resolution S-20/4, on measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem. Each of the resolutions has a bearing on the themes of the Global Programme of Action.

B. Evaluation of progress made and recommendations to improve implementation

5. In 1998, several Governments have reported the implementation of demand reduction programmes and the launching of public awareness campaigns related to those programmes. Specially designed national programmes to prevent drug abuse among youth, which include the training of education and health-care personnel, are being implemented in many States or are one of the top priorities of Governments. A number of Governments, in developing national master plans, are seeking bilateral or international assistance to complement their efforts in that area. In implementing their national policies and programmes against drug abuse, Governments should develop assessment methods in order to benefit from the evaluation of their national strategies to combat drug abuse. The programmes should also promote better multisectoral and intersectoral coordination as an integral part of national development planning.

6. Treatment for drug abusers has been provided by the majority of Governments and, in some countries, specialized training has also been provided for personnel employed in the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers. One Government has reported the amendment of national legislation to allow drug addicts to seek treatment without fear of being prosecuted. In some countries, treatment is exclusively provided in psychiatric hospitals or wards. In some others, treatment and rehabilitation are compulsory. Some Governments have stated that, in their countries, treatment does not extend beyond detoxification because the lack of financial resources has prevented the creation of rehabilitation and social reintegration centres. More efforts should be made to improve treatment beyond detoxification and to effectively coordinate action between Governments, the

private sector and non-governmental organizations to strengthen programmes of rehabilitation and social reintegration.

7. In the past year, campaigns to eradicate cannabis plants, coca bush and poppy straw have been carried out by several Governments, as have illicit crop substitution programmes. Thousands of hectares of illicitly cultivated crops have been destroyed and laboratories have been dismantled by national drug law enforcement agencies, in some cases in cooperation with other Governments. Most Governments are adopting or implementing stringent regulations to control chemical precursors in order to prevent illicit diversion of those substances. In various areas of the world, alternative development programmes are strongly needed to prevent the spread of illicit crop cultivation and further escalation of crime and drug trafficking. Some Governments have called for more joint programmes with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in the areas of alternative development and prevention policies.

8. Governments have intensified their efforts to stop criminal activities related to illicit drug trafficking. Several Governments have reported considerable seizures of drugs as well as the strengthening of border, seaport and airport controls. They have also adopted measures to improve coordination among national drug law enforcement agencies. Strengthening cooperation at the regional and international levels in the form of joint operations and training, controlled deliveries, information exchange and mutual legal assistance is regarded as an effective means of countering illicit drug trafficking and other criminal activities. Some Governments have reported having improved cooperation with international organizations, especially in the area of information exchange. Technical assistance in the form of communication equipment and information systems is needed in some countries to effectively combat criminal activities related to illicit drug trafficking.

9. Legislation against money-laundering has been adopted or is being considered for adoption in many countries. Some Governments have carried out reviews of their money-laundering legislation and amended provisions to make money-laundering more difficult. Some States, however, have not yet adopted the necessary administrative, legislative and penal measures on money derived from illicit drug trafficking. In several States, stricter laws have been adopted against drug-related offences, and judicial cooperation is being carried out, especially in the field of extradition.

10. Some States have adopted new provisions in their legislation to prevent international trafficking in arms and explosives. Some Governments have reported the establishment of special law enforcement units to more effectively combat arms trafficking and stricter controls have been established for aircraft and vessels. Numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements have been signed or are in the process of being signed in order to improve the effectiveness of the fight against the illicit trade in arms, explosives and ammunition. Governments may wish to continue their efforts to identify new modalities for preventing international criminal activities associated with illicit drug trafficking.

11. Only 54 Governments have replied to the questionnaire on activities undertaken by Member States in 1997 relating to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action; there is a need for more Governments to submit replies to the questionnaire conscientiously and promptly, so that the Secretary-General, through his annual report, can effectively contribute to the evaluation of the progress made. Governments may also wish to consider whether to decide to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action every two years. By doing so, Governments would have a longer period of time to provide information on the subject.

II. Prevention and reduction of drug abuse with a view to the elimination of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

12. The vast majority of Governments have reported activities relating to the prevention of drug abuse, although the kind and level varied greatly. The two most common activities have been (a) activities targeting schools and (b) general awareness campaigns, such as the ad hoc provision of information to the population using printed materials or the mass media.

13. Prevention activities in schools have ranged from the distribution of printed material and videos to the introduction of drug prevention messages in the curriculum, the training of teachers or the organization of extracurricular activities. Some Governments have specifically mentioned having provided life skills to students; others have reported the promotion of healthy lifestyles. The use of the school as a way to reach the community has also been reported. In a few cases, the activities, inspired by

the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) model of New Zealand, have involved police forces.

14. The majority of the reported activities have been directed at drug abuse in the community. Several Governments have mentioned the involvement of non-governmental organizations in prevention activities; in one case, religious authorities were involved. The police have also been involved in prevention efforts at the community level. Some Governments have reported the development of plans and activities at the regional level, while others have reported on their contributions to other countries in setting up prevention programmes for youth.

15. Some Governments have reported activities targeting special groups such as high-risk groups (street children, ethnic minorities) and, to an equal extent, the family, professionals in the mass media and prisoners.

16. Young people are usually considered a target population and sometimes a problem instead of a resource in the prevention of drug abuse. Comprehensive prevention strategies are being designed in consultation with young people and those working with them.

17. UNDCP has supported the establishment of a global network of youth programmes to function as antennas for monitoring emerging trends and as sites for testing new prevention approaches. Young people involved in such programmes met for the first time at a drug abuse prevention forum held at Banff, Canada, from 14 to 18 April 1998. The collective experience and insight of the young delegates were expressed in the Vision from Banff, containing a number of recommendations to be presented to government representatives attending the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

III. Treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts

18. The majority of the reporting Governments appeared to have fewer activities in the field of treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts than in the field of prevention. Many Governments have reported activities involving the treatment of drug addicts. Only a few have reported efforts or plans aimed at social reintegration; some of those reported a multidisciplinary approach involving various social institutions.

19. Several Governments have reported treatment consisting mainly of detoxification care in emergency or mental health departments of hospitals. Other Governments have reported that the services offered in their countries are insufficient to meet the needs of the population, either because of lack of resources or because the drug abuse problem has rapidly changed or increased. Some Governments have reported being in the process of assessing their institutional capability with a view to improving the situation. Many have reported having stepped up their capacity-building efforts through training or through the creation of new service centres.

20. In some countries, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug addicts are offered in in-patient facilities whereas out-patient facilities used for such treatment and rehabilitation are rare. Some Governments have reported the contribution of non-governmental organizations to treatment and rehabilitation. Some Governments have reported using methadone maintenance in their treatment programmes. A few have reported the use of compulsory treatment. In one country, legislation has recently been amended to allow drug addicts to seek treatment without fear of being prosecuted.

21. A few Governments have reported activities aimed at reducing the risk of contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); those activities have included awareness-raising programmes and the exchange of needles and syringes.

IV. Control of supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

A. Eradication and substitution of the illicit production of narcotic drugs; eradication of the illicit processing of narcotic drugs; and eradication of the illicit production and diversion of psychotropic substances

22. Several Governments have reported making great efforts to eradicate the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants, coca bush and poppy straw. Thousands of hectares of illicitly cultivated crops have been destroyed, laboratories for the production of illicit narcotic drugs have been dismantled, landing strips have been destroyed and planes and vehicles belonging to drug traffickers have been confiscated. All those activities have been conducted by national drug law enforcement agencies and, in some cases, in cooperation with other Governments. Alternative development and crop substitution programmes are currently being carried out in several countries. Some Governments, however, are in need of more financial and

technical assistance from UNDCP, other intergovernmental organizations and the international community for the implementation of alternative development programmes.

23. International cooperation in the eradication of illicit drug crops and the promotion of alternative development programmes and projects, on the one hand, and the control of precursors to prevent illicit drug processing and manufacture, on the other, were two of the topics considered by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. At the special session, Member States expressed their commitment and determination to implement alternative development programmes and to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, the coca bush and the cannabis plant by the year 2008.

24. In response to the decision of the international community, UNDCP, in cooperation with other United Nations entities, is providing support to the Governments of producing countries for planning alternative development measures. The experience gained through more than two decades of alternative development, from the design stage to the implementation of projects and programmes, will be used to assist those countries in developing or strengthening national strategies and plans, as well as interventions at the community level. UNDCP will also participate in the mobilization of financial assistance for the implementation of the national plans through multisectoral programmes and projects aimed at creating the conditions at the grass-roots level for the replacement and elimination of the illicit cultivation of narcotic drugs as a source of income. UNDCP is also working on the development of a monitoring system to assist Member States in the collection of reliable information on illicit crop cultivation. The system is to be an essential tool for detecting and preventing the displacement of illicit crop cultivation from existing areas to new ones.

25. Measures to prevent the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through more effective control of the precursors and essential chemicals required in such processes were reaffirmed in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. By the year 2003, all Member States should have established or strengthened national legislation and programmes to give effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors. By 2008, there should also be significant reductions in the diversion of precursors and the illicit manufacture of, marketing of and trafficking in psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs.

26. Drug control programmes and projects initiated by or supported by UNDCP usually incorporate measures to prevent the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In addition, drug law enforcement programmes will often include training or other forms of assistance aimed at dealing with clandestine laboratories in which drugs are illicitly produced or manufactured by criminal groups. Emphasis is also given to the need to be on the watch for the use of laboratory equipment and other instruments involved in such processing operations.

B. Licit production, manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

27. According to information furnished to the International Narcotics Control Board, in 1996, the global production of opiate raw materials was only slightly higher than the amount of opiates consumed. Codeine consumption continues to account for the bulk of opiate consumption. Judging from the trends in recent years, annual aggregate consumption of opiates is likely to rise gradually in the next few years, with some fluctuation. A balance between the demand for and the supply of opiates for medical and scientific purposes was therefore achieved. For 1997, a surplus of 45 tonnes in morphine equivalent is expected, whereas for 1998 the projected surplus will be about 32 tonnes.

28. The Board continued its practice of organizing informal meetings with representatives of major producers and importers of opiate raw materials during the forty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Participants discussed the most feasible approach to achieving a lasting balance between supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1998/25 of 28 July 1998, entitled "Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs".

29. The level of consumption of methylphenidate and the rate of its increase remain alarming. This development can partly be attributed to the broadening of diagnostic definitions and criteria for attention deficit disorder (ADD). The Board has therefore requested Governments

to exercise the utmost vigilance in order to prevent over-diagnosing of ADD in children and medically unjustified treatment with methylphenidate and other stimulants.

30. The abuse of appetite suppressants for their stimulant properties has been reported in a number of countries around the world. In Argentina, Brazil, Chile and France, countries with a high level of anorectics consumption, measures have been introduced to reduce the consumption of those drugs to a medically more sound level. The Board has requested the Governments of countries in which controlled anorectics are prescribed in very high quantities to monitor the situation closely to prevent their over-prescribing, which could lead to the abuse of those substances for their stimulant properties. Additional efforts should be devoted to educational campaigns to inform the medical and pharmaceutical community and the general public of the dangers of indiscriminate medical use of stimulants. The Board has reiterated its request to the media to become involved in promoting a more responsible attitude towards the use of stimulants as anorectics.

C. Cooperation at the multilateral level

31. UNDCP is actively participating in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which involves close cooperation at the field level with UNDCP partners in the United Nations system. The Framework will be used by UNDCP as a vehicle for furthering its efforts to integrate drug control input into the programmes and activities of other United Nations entities.

32. Following the launching of the Alliance of Resource Managers against Drug Abuse (ARMADA), UNDCP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) concluded a global project on model programmes for drug abuse prevention in the community and the workplace. ARMADA, an independent and manager-led association, will advocate the adoption of prevention policies in the workplace.

33. The joint UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse is aimed at developing approaches and strategies to promote cost-effective community-based prevention of the abuse of licit and illicit psychoactive substances. UNDCP and WHO are implementing the project with the collaboration of an international consortium of non-governmental organizations working with local communities in southern Africa, south-east Asia and eastern Europe.

34. UNDCP, the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WHO have launched a project involving 11 countries that has focused on the prevention and reduction of drug abuse as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the health and development opportunities of young people living in situations of particular vulnerability. In another project, UNAIDS and UNDCP are training 900 street educators in drug abuse prevention programmes, using cartoons tailored to young children. Approximately 15,000 street children will be reached through this project, which is aimed at helping children to develop skills needed to cope with difficult situations and to increase their ability to resist becoming involved in drug abuse.

35. At an international consultation, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNDCP and the French non-governmental organization Environnement sans frontière in Paris in February 1998, 31 young participants from 25 countries, most of them active in preventive education, finalized the drafting of a charter calling for a twenty-first century free of drugs.

1. Africa

36. Over the next three years, UNDCP through a project will support the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa, adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1996, by enhancing the capacity of the OAU secretariat, which will also execute the project, to discharge its coordination, regulatory and reporting functions related to drug control. By the end of the project, there will be a fully functional drug control unit within the OAU secretariat. UNDCP experts participated in a drug control conference organized jointly by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Commission at Gaborone in February 1998. During the conference, a draft regional drug control action plan was discussed and reviewed by experts and representatives from SADC member States, donors and international organizations.

2. Asia and the Pacific

37. Concerted action is being pursued in central and south-west Asia, based on a memorandum of under-

standing signed by all central Asian countries and UNDCP in 1996 and the subregional cooperation programme prepared by UNDCP for the period 1996-1999. In January 1998, the Executive Director of UNDCP participated in the first ministerial memorandum of understanding meeting at Almaty. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved and outlined activities for the future. It also approved the accession of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network as new parties to the memorandum of understanding.

38. A joint UNDCP donor mission in Afghanistan at the end of 1997 strongly endorsed the inter-agency collaboration strategy of UNDCP. Based on suggestions made by the mission, UNDCP is revising the programme documents and involving the United Nations Office for Project Services and other United Nations entities as implementing partners.

39. The South-east Asia Subregional Action Plan, adopted by signatories to a memorandum of understanding concluded by Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, is proving instrumental in furthering cooperation efforts in south-east Asia. A workshop involving government regulatory authorities and chemical companies was successfully organized in Thailand in November 1997, resulting in the first memorandum of understanding in precursor control between the chemical companies and the government agencies. Regarding law enforcement, more cross-border meetings were held in the border areas of China, Myanmar and Thailand, contributing to increased seizures of drugs and arrests in the border areas. With respect to demand reduction efforts targeting the highlands of east Asia, a three-week workshop on community-based drug demand reduction was held at Bangkok in February and March 1998, facilitating the exchange of experiences among the representatives of countries in that subregion.

40. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, three alternative development projects currently being formulated will cover priority areas and will be coordinated with ongoing and planned efforts involving bilateral rural development assistance. An alternative development project in Xieng Khouang, formulated in March 1998, will be a joint effort involving UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Volunteers, UNFPA, the World Food Programme, ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

3. Europe and the Middle East

41. An extended multi-city study being implemented jointly with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe will involve strengthening the epidemiological research study of beneficiary countries and setting up a compatible methodology for the rapid assessment of drug abuse.

42. The programme document for drug law enforcement of PHARE (originally, Poland/Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy), to be funded mostly by the European Commission, has received endorsement from representatives of law enforcement services from beneficiary countries, European Community police and customs forces, the Customs Cooperation Council (also called the World Customs Organization) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

43. Drug control coordination in the member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization—Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—will be enhanced through a newly adopted regional project. The project will thus further promote drug control cooperation in that major opium-producing and drug trafficking region.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

44. The second cooperation project under the Southern Cone memorandum of understanding, which is aimed at establishing a subregional drug abuse information system and providing a training programme on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, has proved to be very successful. The Government of Chile is responsible for the coordination of the subregional data system and it is expected that in the forthcoming months, household surveys will be carried out in all participating countries under a common approach. The Governments of the subregion have encouraged non-governmental organizations to participate in subregional workshops.

45. Coordination of international cooperation in support of the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, adopted by the Regional Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation in the Caribbean, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 15 to 17 May 1996, was further strengthened. A meeting of a technical task force to conduct a joint programme for prioritization and planning in the areas of law enforcement and maritime

cooperation, money-laundering, legislation, strengthening of drug councils, and demand reduction was organized in October 1997 by the Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism; that meeting was followed by a high-level meeting at Santo Domingo.

D. Monitoring and control mechanisms

46. An increasing number of Governments have taken effective steps to prevent the diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. Concerted and decisive action has led to significant results. Early in 1997, a cocaine laboratory with a capacity to manufacture some 300 tonnes of cocaine hydrochloride annually—nearly one third of the total estimated illicit cocaine manufactured in South America—was discovered and dismantled and the chemicals were seized. Similarly, many cases involving the diversion or attempted diversion of acetic anhydride, which is used for the illicit conversion of morphine to heroin, have involved very large quantities. Large seizures of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants have limited the supply of those substances on the illicit market.

47. The International Narcotics Control Board has noted that there appears to be a certain reluctance in some key countries involved in the manufacturing or trading of chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture to introduce and adhere to strict control measures. The monitoring systems that Governments must establish, under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[1] to identify suspicious transactions require the sharing of information in order to function. There may be loopholes in some regions such as Europe that may be exploited by drug traffickers.

V. Suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

48. There has been an increase in the number of States adhering to the international drug control conventions; this reflects the continuing conviction of Governments that international cooperation is a requisite for success in combating illicit drug trafficking and related criminal phenomena.

49. Meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs are attended by delegates from a large number of Governments, as well as from international organizations such as Interpol and the World Customs Organization. The meetings are now more practitioner-based and action-oriented. Governments have acknowledged their importance as opportunities for coordinating regional cooperation activities in law enforcement and enhancing interdictory efforts.

50. Governments continue to supply data on illicit drug trafficking, enabling UNDCP to prepare analyses of the routes and methods used by drug traffickers. The results of the analyses, which assist Governments in the elaboration of effective countermeasures, are presented at regional meetings and at the annual sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In order to improve the quality of the analyses, UNDCP has recently finalized an agreement with Interpol and the World Customs Organization aimed at pooling information contained in reports received by the three organizations on significant individual seizures of illicit drugs. Interpol compares the collated data to identify cases of double-reporting, and the resulting information is then distributed to the three organizations on a shared ownership principle. This not only results in an expanded, agreed and more accurate data pool, but it paves the way for collaboration in the production of joint strategic analyses that are of benefit to the members of all three organizations.

51. The abuse of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic drugs are increasing worldwide. This trend has added a new dimension to the routine work of many drug-testing laboratories in that they need to apply more specific analysis and detection techniques in order to differentiate between closely related substances that are controlled under different control regimes and thus may carry different penalties. As a consequence, Member States are increasingly requesting assistance or guidance from UNDCP in dealing with such issues at the legislative and at the chemical or analytical level.

52. Member States have indicated that there continues to be a need for technical cooperation programmes that include laboratory components such as the establishment or strengthening of drug-testing laboratories and the provision of reference samples of controlled drugs, their metabolites and precursors for comparative analytical purposes, as well as for direct scientific or technical advice on drug-related matters. They have also indicated that there is a need for specialized training of scientific staff from national drug-testing laboratories and for improved co-operation at the regional and subregional levels among such laboratories. Participation in the international quality assurance programme, run under the auspices of UNDCP, is increasingly being viewed as a valuable asset in terms of

ensuring the acceptance of laboratory analytical results in court cases, since it makes possible an assessment of the accuracy and precision of the results from a drug-testing laboratory and, consequently, an assessment of the overall performance of the laboratory. The value of scientific tools such as signature analysis and profiling in support of intelligence-gathering efforts aimed at establishing illicit drug trafficking routes and distribution patterns and at dismantling clandestine laboratories is now recognized worldwide. UNDCP assists Member States by coordinating and conducting applied scientific research into the comparative analysis of impurities in seized material, as well as by providing fellowships.

VI. Measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system

53. As in previous years, Governments continued in 1997 to report the adoption of legislative and administrative measures targeting the proceeds of crime, in compliance with articles 3 and 5 of the 1988 Convention. Governments now also seek to comply with the provisions of a number of other international instruments and agreements that detail requirements for laws against money-laundering. Among those instruments are the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, adopted in 1990 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission; and the 1991 directive of the Council of the European Communities entitled "Prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering".

54. Many Governments are in the process of drafting, enacting or amending their national legislation. However, there is still only a relatively small number of States that have fully equipped themselves with the legislation and institutions necessary to take effective action against money-laundering in fulfilment of their obligations under the 1988 Convention.

55. The global programme against money-laundering, aimed at providing assistance and support to States to enable them to meet their obligations under the 1988 Convention, was initiated in October 1996 as a cooperative effort involving UNDCP and the former Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (now called the Centre for International Crime Prevention). The main achievements during its first year of operation were:

(a) The development of the Anti-Money-Laundering International Database and its Internet-based support network, the International Money-Laundering Information Network, which are now operational. The Internet site also has an electronic library, including main international legal instruments relating to money-laundering and some reference materials, as well as a calendar of events of the main international organizations active in this field;

(b) The launching of a series of studies and technical assistance materials, including: legal research on the reversal of the onus of proof in confiscation matters; an analysis of the impact of control policies on the strategy and economy of organized crime; research on bank secrecy and offshore centres; and a manual for financial investigators in money-laundering cases;

(c) The provision of assistance to States in legal matters (legal/drafting missions to Haiti, Jordan, Kazakhstan and Venezuela) with the support of the legal advisory project team; the organization of awareness-raising seminars in countries of western Africa and in the Russian Federation (sponsored by the Financial Action Task Force and the Bank of Russia) and training in Slovenia.

56. Coordination with the relevant organizations was also ensured by active participation in the work of other bodies, particularly the Financial Action Task Force, and by regular contact with Interpol, the World Customs Organization, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States.

57. The General Assembly at its twentieth special session considered as one of its key themes international action to counter money-laundering. At that session, the Member States adopted a Political Declaration in which they recommended that States that had not yet done so should adopt by the year 2003 money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with the 1988 Convention. The Member States also adopted an action plan for countering money-laundering, in which they recalled the provisions of the 1988 Convention according to which all parties to the Convention were required to adopt the measures necessary to enable the authorities to identify, trace and freeze or seize the

proceeds of illicit drug trafficking. Lessons learned by States in the fight against money-laundering, such as the need to harmonize legislation, to improve the exchange of information and to cooperate in money-laundering cases, were reflected in the action plan. Also included in the action plan were principles that should form the basis for measures to counter money-laundering in three areas: legislation, financial system regulation and law enforcement. States, for instance, have endorsed an important measure, recently agreed upon by some intergovernmental bodies, on the mandatory reporting of suspicious activities and on the application of money-laundering countermeasures to "money derived from serious crimes". In the action plan, Member States also called upon the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to continue to work, within the framework of its global programme against money-laundering, providing training, advice and technical assistance.

58. A preliminary report on a major study on financial havens, banking secrecy and money-laundering, prepared by UNDCP within the framework of the global programme against money-laundering, was considered in a special panel discussion on money-laundering during the special session. The preliminary report generated a great deal of interest among Governments, the public and the media in the role of offshore financial centres and banking secrecy in relation to money-laundering.

VII. Strengthening of judicial and legal systems, including law enforcement

59. In 1997, five States became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] six States became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[3] and five States became parties to the 1988 Convention. As at 30 June 1998, 164 States were parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[4] or to that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, 157 States were parties to the 1971 Convention and 147 States were parties to the 1988 Convention.

60. While there has been a slight improvement in the enactment of legislation against money-laundering, some States, by maintaining bank secrecy laws, continue to offer safe havens for drug traffickers and other persons engaged in money-laundering. The repeal of bank secrecy laws and the enactment and enforcement of comprehensive legislation against money-laundering and in favour of asset forfeiture are crucial to the effective implementation of the international drug control conventions. Not only are bank secrecy laws an impediment to effective domestic implementation of those conventions, but they also hamper international cooperation in the context of mutual legal assistance, particularly with regard to the tracing, confiscation and forfeiture of assets and proceeds derived from drug trafficking.

61. In the area of capacity-building, a number of training programmes for law enforcement personnel have been carried out in different parts of the world. Some of the programmes have been carried out at the bilateral level by parties to the international drug control conventions, but most of them have been carried out with the assistance of UNDCP and some Governments. The persons who have received training include judges, magistrates, prosecutors, customs officials, member of the police force and, in some instances, navy officials. Recognizing the importance of pooling resources, some States are in the process of establishing regionally harmonized drug control legislation and institutions, including regional training centres for drug control law enforcement personnel.

VIII. Measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit drug trafficking by vessels, aircraft and vehicles

62. Several States have strengthened and/or created special law enforcement units to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and explosives. In many countries, law enforcement authorities regulate and control the possession of firearms and collect and analyse information on firearms smuggling, keeping in close contact with foreign investigative authorities. In some cases, agreements between Governments, airlines and other transportation companies have been signed to prevent illegal access to arms, explosives and drugs using aircraft and vehicles. The Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Production of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials was signed in November 1997 by several Governments in Latin America.

63. Several States have carried out on a regular basis measures against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit drug trafficking using vessels, aircraft and vehicles. The exercises are carried out at the local, national and international levels. Security in airports and seaports has been reinforced in some countries. When inspections are

undertaken in airports and seaports, the use of trained dogs and equipment to detect arms and explosives has proved worthwhile in several States. In some countries, law enforcement and customs officials have received additional training in the detection of firearms, explosives and their component parts, as well as in anti-smuggling techniques. Some countries, however, need technical assistance and training in order to train their officers in the detection of arms, explosives and narcotic drugs and in anti-smuggling techniques.

64. UNDCP is executing a pilot project on maritime drug law enforcement training and model legislation. A training guide for boarding officers that was tested at the Asia-Pacific Training Seminar on Maritime Drug Law Enforcement, organized by UNDCP at Yokohama, Japan, from 27 to 31 October 1997, is now being finalized. Furthermore, an informal correspondence group of national experts has been established by UNDCP to provide assistance in the preparation of legislative and procedural guidelines against trafficking by sea, including the establishment of ship registries. Pursuant to a recommendation made during the Yokohama Training Seminar, preparations are under way concerning the establishment of an informal correspondence group in Asia and the Pacific to foster greater cooperation between competent authorities in that region. Finally, the International Maritime Organization is starting a project in Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with UNDCP, aimed at developing a model training course on combating illicit trafficking by sea.

IX. United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, covering the years 1991-2000

65. The General Assembly, in its resolution S-17/2, annex, of 23 February 1990, proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. A landmark event of the Decade was the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in which the Assembly reached consensus on measures to further drug control strategies and adopted a political declaration, a declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction and a package of action-oriented measures to enhance international drug control, together with timeframes and target dates for their implementation. The twentieth special session provided Governments and the rest of the international community with an opportunity to renew their commitment to drug control worldwide and created momentum for intensified action to be taken in the coming years.

66. In the context of the mobilization of civil society, UNDCP has pursued its efforts to build up its partnership with the private sector. Three conferences have been held in that area with the participation of ILO. The last conference, organized with the Malaysian National Association at Petaling, Malaysia, in October 1997, was attended by 150 representatives from the business sector, trade unions and local communities. Likewise, under the aegis of UNDCP, ILO and WHO, a five-year model programme aimed at reducing drug and alcohol abuse among workers and their families was completed and evaluated. It benefited about 250,000 employees from 43 companies in five countries. UNDCP also extended support to non-governmental organizations and their supporting institutions, such as non-governmental organizations committees. Non-governmental organizations have continued to play an important role in the activities of the Decade. Through funds provided by the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a non-governmental organization based in Tokyo, UNDCP distributed grants totalling $500,000 to 51 non-governmental organizations from developing countries during 1997.

67. UNDCP has developed a strategy to better communicate its mission and achievements. It has mapped out a series of public information activities to raise the awareness of individuals and societies of the consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse. UNDCP has issued publications such as *World Drug Report*[5] and *UNDCP: Facing the Challenge*, featuring its achievements and success stories.

X. Resources and structure

68. The budget of UNDCP consists of two complementary parts: the regular budget, approved by the General Assembly; and the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Fund, established in 1991 by the General Assembly, is under the direct responsibility of the Executive Director of UNDCP and is supported from extrabudgetary resources.

69. The total initial budget of UNDCP for the biennium 1998-1999 amounts to $165 million, of which $148.6 million, or 90 per cent, is funded from voluntary contributions under the Fund and $16.3 million, or 10 per cent, is from the regular budget of the United Nations. The total income of the Fund for the biennium 1998-1999 is estimated at $116.4 million, resulting in an expected shortfall of income over expenditure of $32.3 million.

70. The regular budget resources of UNDCP mainly finance treaty implementation and legal affairs at UNDCP headquarters. Of the resources of the Fund, $110.5 million, or about 75 per cent, are for project activities, mainly carried out in developing countries to enhance their ability to comply with treaty obligations and to counter illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. The remaining $38.1 million, or 25 per cent of the resources of the Fund, cover the cost of the network of field offices and a share of headquarters expenses. The largest share of spending is in Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by west and central Asia and east Asia and the Pacific. UNDCP also has substantial project activities in sub-Saharan Africa, central and eastern Europe and south Asia and at the global level.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[4] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

[5] United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *World Drug Report* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1997).